

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 10 and 12 have been amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner.

The claims have been rejected as being obvious in view of Gruchala, Neustein, Foladare and Checcho. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Briefly, the subject application pertains to a paging system in which a caller places a page message to a subscriber. The page message is transmitted by a pager server and includes a message portion and data descriptive of the caller. The system further includes a payment server. Initially, e.g., when the subscriber first accesses the system, the payment server is set up to determine the charges for page messages (and other services discussed below) based on a set of rules determined by the subscriber. For example, all callers may be recognized as belonging to one of three categories, and each page message is charged based on these categories.

A further feature of the invention is that the system includes a conference switch that connects a caller with a particular line and sends the respective page message to the subscriber. If the subscriber returns the call, a conference is automatically set up between the caller and the subscriber. The conference call is again charged in accordance with predetermined rules.

Finally, in one aspect of the invention, an alphanumeric page message is routed through a transcriber station. At this station, a human transcriber transcribes the alphanumeric message into a corresponding voice message and sends it to the caller. However, the remainder of the paging process is handled automatically.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the references disclose these features, or a combination thereof. For example, Gruchala discloses a CPP paging system but does not describe a system in which a paged subscriber preselects various rules used for charging a page. Foladare discloses a system in which a caller and a paged party are connected by a switch but fails to disclose a conferencing system using the processes disclosed herein. Moreover, Foladare fails to disclose a CPP paging system.

Neustein is only cited for disclosing a pager with a digital display. However, the other elements missing from Gruchala are not disclosed by this reference. Checco is cited for disclosing a system with analog-to-digital conversions. However, that is not with the claims call for. As discussed above, one feature of the present invention is that it provides for a voice message from a caller to be transcribed by a person into a digital message. No such process is disclosed in Checco.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record and therefore it should be allowed.

Dated:

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